

Finals time can be easier with helpful hints

by Jeremiah Raab

Finals will take place all next week, and LSUS students seem to have mixed reactions regarding them. Some students are not worried at all, and some are freaking out.

Connie Ingram, senior biology major, is not that worried. "I'm a senior," Ingram said. "I've done this so many times, what's the point of being nervous? It's just another test (to me)."

According to Paula Lewis, director of counseling services, a little stress is OK. "For most people, some amount of stress is helpful. It keeps you sharp and gets you up for the task," she said. But too much stress, she said, can be "debilitating."

"The right amount of stress is the key," Lewis added.

Besides the variations in students' study habits, Lewis gave a few often-heard suggestions for LSUS students to use when getting ready to take their finals. First, she said, "be prepared and have a plan." Students need to take everything into consideration, she said, such as the test format, the time allotted to take the test and their own

"(Stress) keeps you sharp and gets you up for the task."

Paula Lewis
Director of
Counseling Services

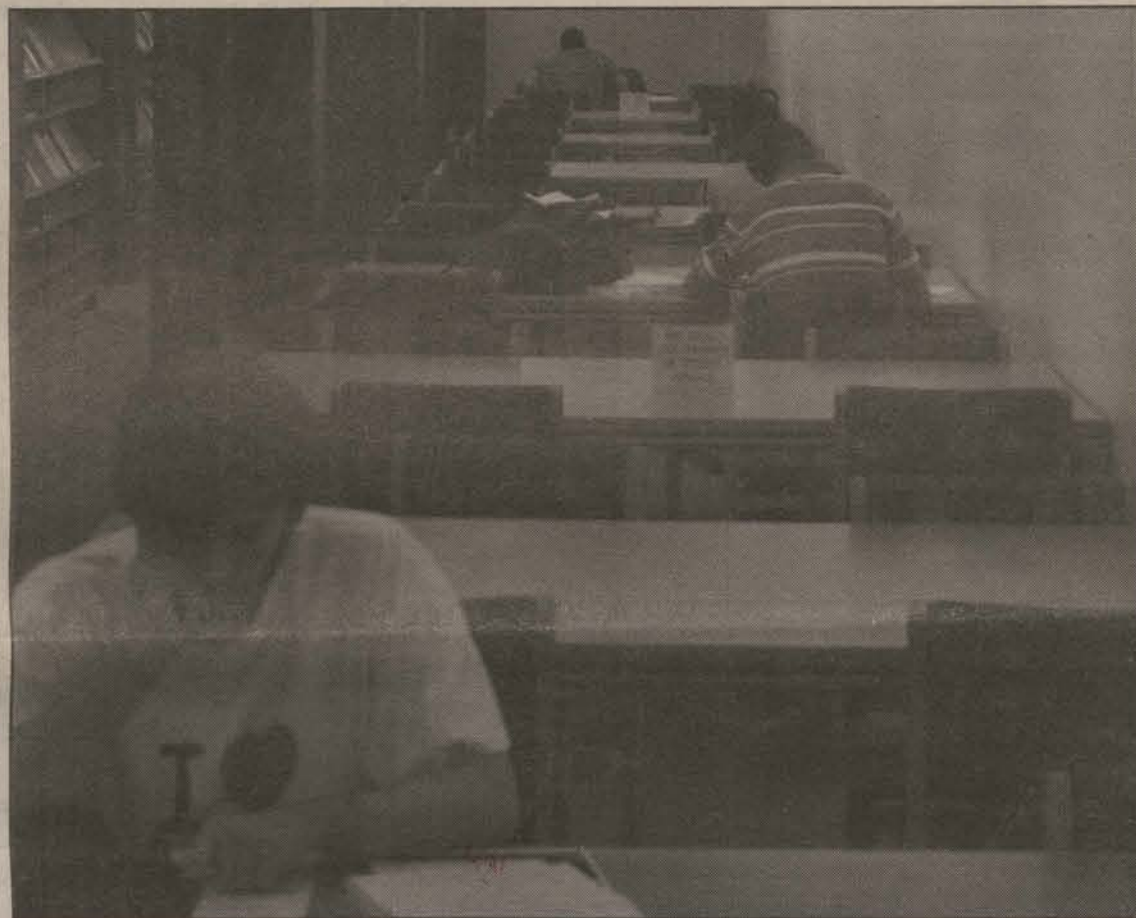
knowledge of the information.

Lewis said students should also get plenty of rest. "We perform better when we are well rested," stated Lewis. Another thing is to avoid junk food, and while studying, take small exercise breaks.

The most important thing for students to avoid at this time of the year, Lewis said, is procrastination. "Don't cram!"

Sandi Ramsey, sophomore biology major, said finals do not make her nervous because she has "done the studying."

One student claims that it is all in the mind. "I just pretend it's a regular test," said Michael Tran, sophomore math major. "I'm not worried that much."



JEREMIAH RAAB

LSUS students study in the Noel Library on campus, as they prepare for the ending of the spring semester. Finals week is usually a stressful time for students, and preparation is one the keys to not being overwhelmed.

Other students are not as confident. "I'm nervous," said Dakarai Hawkins, junior community health major. "It's a bigger portion of your grade," he said, claiming that he was "more nervous" for the finals than other tests because of that fact.

Besides the differences of

opinions on the finals themselves, students also seem to prepare for their respective finals differently.

Ramsey claimed that she just studies for a longer amount of time. "For the actual finals, I study for a couple of hours more (than usual)," she said.

Check out...

- The LSUS spring finals schedule on page 3.
- Another option to selling back your books on page 5.

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Sports

Pilots in GCAC tourney

the **Almagest**

Volume 50, Issue 12

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"Almagest" is an Arabic word meaning "great" or "majestic." It is also the title of a book written by the ancient astronomer Ptolemy who is pictured on the front page of our paper.

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Letters Policy

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EDITORIAL**End of semester signals goodbyes, new beginnings**

by Mike Schwalke

This semester is rapidly drawing to a close. If you're like me, the accumulated procrastination has piled up to make for one hellacious finale. But to borrow a phrase from Robert Duval in "Apocalypse Now," someday this semester's gonna end.

So in the middle of this end-of-the-school maelstrom, I would like to take this space to reflect on this semester.

First, I would note that the Almagest is subsidized by the MCOM 270 class. Every semester the writers change, and it's a mixed bag, but this semester, I think the caliber of writing has been a cut above previous semesters. I know that my job as editor had certainly been much easier.

I would also like to single out the March 15 issue of the Almagest. Devin White and Erin Pyles' story on the dead American robins on campus and Chris Gray's photos made for the darkest issue in my tenure. That issue also contained Jeremiah Raab's coverage of the then-impending SGA elections. I think that story is a candidate for best of the semester.

Between now and August, the Almagest will be undergoing some big changes, and in some ways it will stay the same. I will be back. Movie aficionado Chris Gray will be back. Ace reporter Jeremiah Raab will be back. Photographer extraordinaire Rodrigo

Mondragon will be back. We will form the veteran core of next semester's Almagest.

But my colleague and co-editor for the past year, Chrissy Chiri, is graduating and will not be back. In her tenure as managing editor, Chrissy has left an indelible impression on the look of the Almagest with her clean, tight layout. She has also single-handedly covered LSUS sports in this time, giving the Pilots the attention and coverage that they deserve.

Also, the Almagest's faculty adviser for the last seven years, Mrs. Suzanne Bright, is retiring. Her influence is less obvious but no less perceptible. She informs almost every decision that the Almagest makes. She has been my teacher and guide. In fact, I cannot fathom what the Almagest would be like without her.

To say that it's unfortunate that these two women are leaving would be selfish. They are each entering a new phase of life—Chrissy is just beginning what I know will be a long and distinguished career; Mrs. Bright is ending her long career to begin a life of endless adventure.

I admire their determination and work ethic. They are my friends and allies. I think the three of us have been a great team.

But I have to say goodbye to these two women whom I respect and love. I hope I am never estranged from either of them. They are irreplaceable. They will be missed.

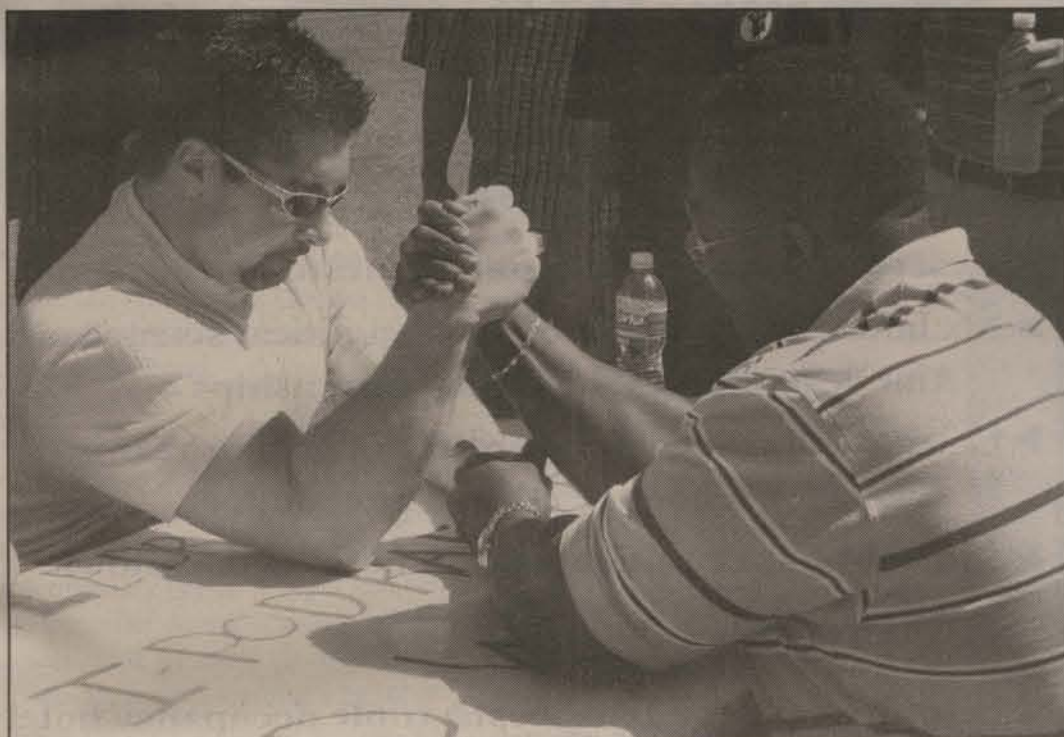
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CAMPUS NEWS

Too Much to Handle



RODRIGO MONDRAGON

Mike Leggiere, chair of the department of history, shows why his department is pound-for-pound the most dangerous on campus at Spring Fling. The competition was a fundraiser for the History Club.

Campus Briefs

Great debater to appear in 'The Great Debaters'

For Preston Langley, art imitates life. Langley, a junior English major, has been a member of the LSUS debate team for two years, and on May 23 he will begin playing a college debater on the silver screen. Langley has been cast as an extra in "The Great Debaters," a film about Melvin B. Tolson's debate team from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, that bested Harvard's debate team in 1935. The film, which is being filmed partially in Shreveport, will star Oscar-winners Denzel Washington and Forest Whitaker. Washington is also directing the picture.

"I'm excited," said Langley. "In the beginning it didn't matter if I got paid or not, but finding out I was playing a college debater and getting paid for it was an added bonus."

Jorgi Jarzabek, instructor of communications and coach of the LSUS Debate Team, saw the open casting call in the (Shreveport) Times and encouraged her students to show up. Langley got two call-backs from the casting company before he made the cut.

Langley compared acting to debating. "You have to persuade your audience (in either one)," he said. He does not know yet whether he will have any speaking lines or share screen time with any of the film's stars.

"I'm sure I'm going to have to do a little bit of acting," he said.

By Mike Schwalke

Spring 2007 Final Exam Schedule

Regular Class Starting Time	MWF 7:00 AM	MWF 8:00 AM	MWF 9:00 AM	MWF 10:00 AM	MWF 11:00 AM
Final Exam Day and Time	F May 11 at 8:00 AM	M May 7 at 8:00 AM	W May 9 at 8:00 AM	F May 11 at 10:30 AM	M May 7 at 10:30 AM
Regular Class Starting Time	MWF 12:00 PM	MWF 1:00 PM	MWF 2:00 PM	MWF 3:00 PM	MWF 4:00 PM
Final Exam Day and Time	W May 9 at 10:30 AM	M May 7 at 1:00 PM	W May 9 at 1:00 PM	W May 9 at 3:00 PM	M May 7 at 3:00 PM
Regular Class Starting Time	TR 7:45 AM	TR 9:10 AM	TR 11:15 AM	TR 12:40 AM	TR 3:30 PM
Final Exam Day and Time	T May 8 at 8:00 AM	R May 10 at 8:00 AM	T May 8 at 10:30 AM	R May 10 at 1:00 PM	T May 8 at 3:00 PM
Regular Class Starting Time	M 4:30/5:00/5:30	T or TR 4:30/5:00/5:30	W 4:30/5:00/5:30	MW 4:30/5:00/5:30	R 4:30/5:00/5:30
Final Exam Day and Time	M May 7 at 5:00 PM	T May 8 at 5:00 PM	W May 9 at 5:00 PM	W May 9 at 5:00 PM	R May 10 at 5:00 PM
Regular Class Starting Time	MW 6:00 PM M 6:00 PM M 6:30 PM	TR 6:00 PM T 6:00 PM T 6:30 PM	MW 6:30 PM W 6:00 PM W 6:30 PM	TR 6:30 PM R 6:00 PM R 6:30 PM	
Final Exam Day and Time	M May 7 at 7:00 PM	T May 8 at 7:00 PM	W May 9 at 7:00 PM	R May 10 at 7:00 PM	

1. Saturday classes will have final exams on Saturday, May 12, at the regular class time.
2. Any class time not listed would have the exam time of the closest hour.
3. Each exam is schedule for a two-hour period.
4. Exams in science labs and HPE courses will be given at the last class meeting.

Program offers tuition relief to high schoolers

New funding for tuition and fees has been donated to the Academic Excellence Program (AEP) for high school students wishing to get an early start in their college careers.

The first 40 students accepted in the AEP next fall will have tuition and fees paid, leaving them to pay only for books and supplies.

"The advantage to the student is obvious," said Dr. David Gustavson, dean of the College of Education. "The advantage to LSUS is the opportunity to expose good Shreveport-Bossier City high school students to the university, with the possibility that the student may decided to stay with us during his/her college years."

Carolyn Murphy, a senior at Captain Shreve High School, will finish the program this year with a total of 15 hours already on her college transcript.

"I really enjoyed doing it, not just because I'm receiving college credit but because I was able to interact with older people," said Murphy.

Credit for acquiring funds goes to Keith Bergeron, regional chairman of the Northwest Louisiana and East Texas Branch of Capital One Bank, and the LSU in Shreveport Foundation, Inc.

In order to qualify for the program, high school students must have an overall grade average of "B" or better and have at least a "B" average in the subject areas for which they apply.

By Devin White

Faculty retirees say adieu

by Christine Bradley

At the end of this semester, four faculty and one staff member will begin new life chapters of hard-earned retirement.

Those retiring include Susan Beal, director of the LSUS center for business and economic research; Suzanne Bright, assistant professor of mass communications; Dr. Robert C. Critcher, associate professor of communications; Dr. Robert Kalinsky, professor of biological sciences; and Dr. Merrell Knighten, professor of English.

"Who's leaving? I intend to hide in the top floor of the library and read every book in the Noel Collection," said Knighten. "Please send Hostess cupcakes and Cokes."

Light-hearted sarcasm is a common response to retirement from a couple of faculty members. There is still an undeniable nostalgia in the air. Knighten says everyday at LSUS has been memorable.

"Every day I come to work with bright, dedicated people who are making a difference in the world they leave behind them," said Knighten. "How many people get to spend their professional careers working with people they admire?"

Susan Beal has been working for LSUS since 1987 and is retiring to spend time with her family.

"Some of my favorite memories are of how the campus has continued to grow in physical facilities and in aesthetic appearance,"

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How to sell your books on Amazon.com

by **Mike Schwalke**

A common gripe at the end of every semester is about the pittance that the bookstore gives students who return books. But with Campus Corner on Youree Drive now out of business, students who want to circumvent the long lines at book buy-back have few options. The SGA's Book Buy Back Board in the UC is one of those options, but participation is spotty. But Internet-savvy students can take their textbooks online and unload them for cash on buyers around the world.

Becoming a seller on Amazon.com is preferable to eBay or Half.com because Amazon sellers do not deal directly with the buyers. Instead, Amazon.com serves as an intermediary between buyer and seller; the seller doesn't receive word of a sale until Amazon clears the payment. Moreover, starting a seller account on Amazon.com is free and easy.

If you have already bought books, new or used, from Amazon.com, you are already half-way to becoming a seller. But before you sign up and start listing your books, you will need a few additional items.

Because Amazon.com requires its sellers to ship items within two business days of purchase, you will need to have ready access to the Internet. All communication with Amazon.com is done via e-mail, from providing the seller with a shipping address for a book to notifying the seller that payments have been posted.

In order to get paid by Amazon.com, you will also need a bank account. When you sign up as a seller, Amazon.com will ask for your bank account and routing number. Instead of sending you a check for

each sale, Amazon.com tabulates all of your sales over the course of two weeks, takes its fee, and posts funds directly to your account.

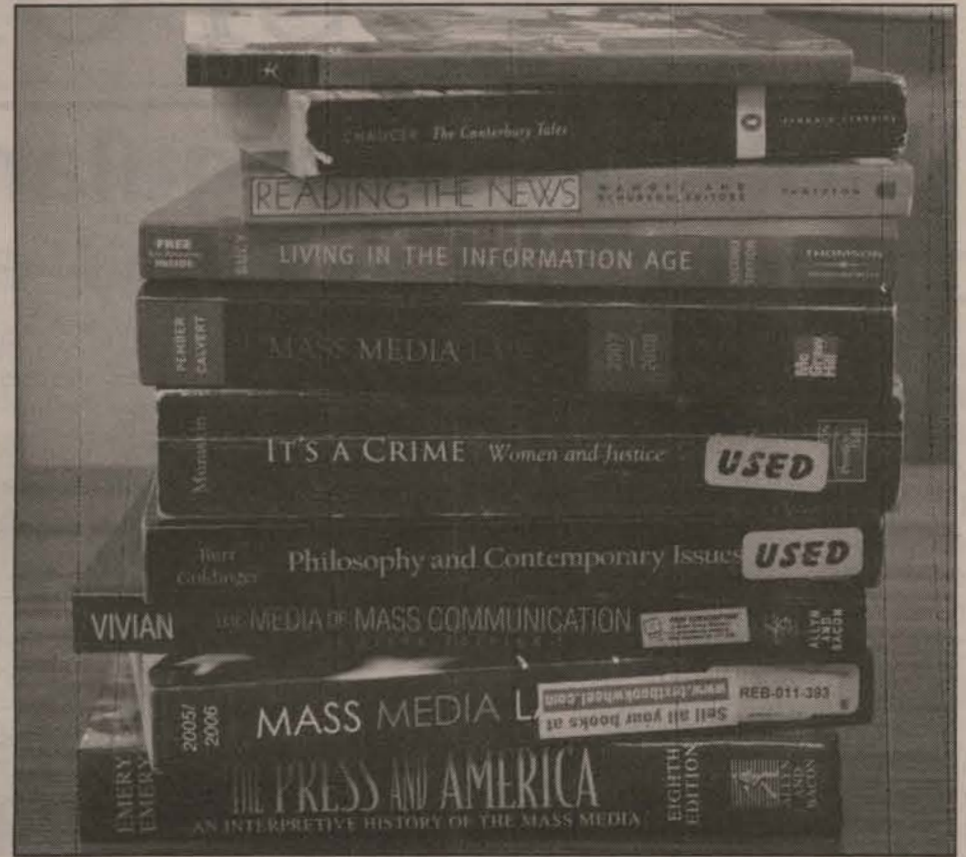
Since you have to ship any book sold to the buyer, you will need envelopes big enough to hold each book you plan to sell. Bubble mailers are preferable to manila envelopes because they provide extra protection. Individual mailers are relatively inexpensive and available from the grocery store, but if you have several books of similar size to sell, it is more economical to buy the envelopes in bulk from an office supply store.

Amazon.com tacks on a shipping charge to every book sold. This charge is credited to the seller along with purchase price. But the U.S. Postal Service offers a special discounted rate known as Media Mail which is less than the amount that Amazon.com charges the buyer for shipping. Sellers can expect to get a dollar or more beyond their sale price by choosing Media Mail.

Once you have your bank account information, an Internet connection and the will to sell your books online, signing up to do so is simple. Amazon.com provides easy-to-follow steps to register as a seller. At some point, Amazon.com will have an automated system call you to confirm your identity, and after that, you will be ready to start selling.

Listing items is also a cinch, and the best way to ensure you are listing the right book is by entering the book's ISBN number (that line of digits above the bar code). You can also search by book title and edition to see what other sellers are asking for the same book. The lowest price gets top billing, but you can set any price you want for your books.

One drawback to this system is



MIKE SCHWALKE

Students are not limited to the campus bookstore for selling their books back at the end of the semester. Online options exist, but every option has its advantages and drawbacks.

that price is not the only factor that buyers use when shopping for used books. Amazon.com has a five-star seller rating, but unlike eBay, there is no buyer rating to serve as an incentive for buyers to leave feedback. As such, the casual seller does not accumulate feedback very often. However, since all transactions are done through Amazon.com, the importance of feedback is somewhat mitigated.

Also, the system has some assumptions built into it that might be restrictive. If you don't have a computer with an Internet connection at your fingertips, or if you cannot get to a post office easily, then selling on Amazon.com might not be for you. Also, there is no guarantee that your

book will sell for the price that you are asking. And waiting for a payment to post in your bank account does not illicit the same feeling of getting cash in hand from the bookstore. The selling prices, in most cases, are competitive with the bookstore, although textbooks usually fetch a pretty penny. If you have an old edition of a book that the bookstore won't buy back, Amazon.com might be the best place to unload it.

If you are just finishing your first semester at LSUS, becoming an Amazon seller could be economically beneficial in the long run. For a one-time book sale, you will have to decide if the time it takes to register and sell your stack of books beats standing in line at the bookstore.

RETIREEES, continued from p.4

ance," said Beal. "Having movie stars on campus has also been a treat."

Working for the university for 20 years, Beal has seen

LSUS grow and develop around her.

"I think the LSUS campus as a community show place and a community contribution will always be a source of pride for me," said Beal.

Dr. Kalinsky has been at LSUS for 33 years and

taught the first set of seniors at the university. He plans to travel, write, relax and spend time with his family.

"...and most of all, my wonderful wife," said Kalinsky.

Although the career chapter in life is ending for the re-

tiring faculty and staff, there is pleasant reminiscing of what was and dreams of what is to come.

"I've always been retiring and very modest, too. Just ask my admirers," said Knighten.

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SPORTS

Pilots finish regular season in second

by Chrissy Chiri

The LSUS Pilots baseball team has wrapped up their regular season by taking second place in the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference. The Pilots finished with an outstanding record of 21-9 in conference; however, the Belhaven Blazers finished 24-6 to finish in first place, just over the Pilots.

With the conference win, the Blazers received an automatic berth to the regional tournament. Because the Pilots finished their regular season ranked in the top 30 national rankings, however, they also received an automatic berth to the regional tourney.

Postseason for the NAIA baseball playoffs works like this: There is a regional tournament, then super regionals and then the World Series. The only teams who even make it to the regional tournament are conference champions, conference tournament champions and teams ranked in the top 30 at

the end of the regular season. The GCAC tournament started yesterday, and LSUS faced Loyola University. If they beat the fifth place team, they will play today at 7 p.m.

Senior pitcher Daniel Welch will take the mound today and said even though his team already has a spot in the regionals, a GCAC tournament championship is vital.

"We will be the third seed going into regionals instead of being the sixth seed," he said.

Welch, who is 7-1 on the year, won his seventh game last weekend against the University of Mobile Rams.

This is the best record he's had since last year when he went 7-2.

"I don't remember who I lost to last year because I try not to remember those," Welch said.

He started out this season as a non-conference starter but worked his way into the three-man conference rota-

tion with stellar performances.

"A lot of the teams we played in mid-week were harder than conference teams," Welch said, which is why he feels he was able to continue getting wins for his team even into conference.

The senior pitched his last regular season home game at Pilot Field on Saturday. As a freshman, he started in two World Series games with the Pilots.

"I think we have a better chance (of making the World Series) this year than we did my freshman year because we have a lot more talent," he said.

Welch said as long as the pitching is there, his team will be fine.

"We need clutch hitting because our pitching is always going to be there," the confident pitcher said.

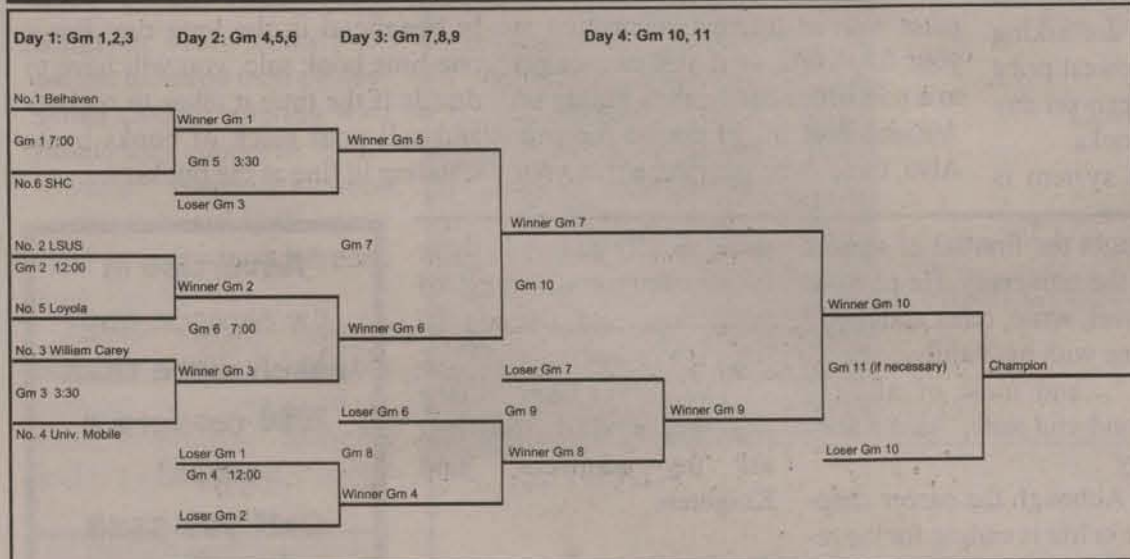
The regional tournament will start on Wed., May 9, in Jackson, Miss. Check the LSUS athletics Web site for up-to-date scores.



CHRISSE CHIRI

LSUS pitcher Daniel Welch picked up his seventh win of the season on Saturday against the University of Mobile Rams. Because he is a senior, Welch pitched in his final regular season game at Pilot Field.

GCAC Tournament Bracket



ENTERTAINMENT

**"Tuesday Night –
College Night"**

6 p.m.

**University Church –
of Christ**

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\$10.95 haircut

\$2 student discount*

*\$2 student discount with ID.

May be used with any service.

Stone Cold, director deserve to be 'Condemned' for movie

by Chris Gray

When 10 death row convicts are thrown onto a deserted island, they must fight one another to stay alive for the entertainment of an Internet audience. The last one standing is granted amnesty and a pocket full of cash. Not only was "The Condemned" an action film, it had quite a bit of social commentary to it.

Steve Austin ("Stone Cold" from World Wrestling Entertainment fame) and Vinnie Jones ("Snatch," "X-Men 3") give a performance to die for. Austin is the worst actor in the history of American cinema. When he was on film, it was an atrocity to watch. His lines were dry and unemotional and even though this was a balls-to-the-wall action film, the day of the cheesy one liners was over in the late '80s. Whoever cast this guy as the main character in a film should be brought up on movie crimes.

Vinnie Jones was the only saving grace of the film. He completely redeemed himself in my eyes by taking this role. Now I don't have to think of him as the Juggernaut from that terrible film, "X-Men 3."

Not only was he able to pull off the role of a sadistic

killer, but he was able to play the part in a way that made me cringe. His lines were full of flavor, from his telling a fellow prisoner a joke about killing a guard to having a meaningful conversation with the producer of the show. Vinnie Jones is definitely one of the best heavy actors since Sid Haig ("Devil's Rejects").

Director Scott Wiper has directed only four films, all of which were of no notoriety and that's why I am not mentioning them. His lack of direction as a whole was spectacular. He did nothing but collect a pay check for this film. He brought nothing to the silver screen that added any substance in this film. His failings as someone who can direct human beings were phenomenal. None of the actors except for Vinnie Jones had any talent.

The only plus was that some of them were pretty people; all of them were the dry husks of actors that delivered dry unenthusiastic lines.

Wiper's use of shoddy camera work was amazing. The whole time there was action in the film the camera was moving like it was the "Blair Witch Project," and you could never get a clear depiction of what was going

on.

The only thing that this guy did right in this film was explore the way that reality television exploits people for the entertainment of the masses. He explores the fact that society as a whole has a basic need to see violence and death. By making this film about an Internet Web-cast that shows people getting raped, blown up and beaten to death, he has tried to open peoples' eyes. But it all fell short of the ultimate goal as soon as Steve Austin opened his mouth.

The special effects were nowhere near Hollywood standards. A helicopter crashes, and it looks like it is a miniature on a string sliding down and crashing into a papier-mâché cliff. There were pretty explosions but none that made me feel all fuzzy inside. Instead they looked like sparklers in a coffee can. Altogether the special effects looked like something that would go in a straight-to-DVD action flick, which this film probably should have been.

"The Condemned" was by far the worst film I have seen this semester, and if you go see it, be prepared to commit cinema suicide because you may never want to venture into a theater.

UPCOMING LSUS MOVIE NIGHT SCHEDULE

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Bert Stroud, the Anthropologist

By: Mike Schwalke and Diego Tripodi



LSUS Baseball Schedule

May 2 - May 5

Gulf Coast Atlantic

Conference Tournament

Mobile, Ala.

Begins May 9

Region XIII Tournament

Jackson, Miss.

May 25 - June 1

NAIA World Series

Lewiston, Idaho

See www.lsus.edu/athletics